

Instructions for Communicating with Governor Pillen about LB304

1. Handwritten letters (or letters that are typed/printed, signed, and sent in the mail) are the most impactful. If mailing a letter to Governor Pillen, address the envelope in the following manner:

The Honorable Jim Pillen
Governor of Nebraska
PO Box 94848
Lincoln, NE 68509-4848

In the actual letter itself, use “Governor Jim Pillen” or “Dear Governor Pillen” for the salutation. Remember to both print and sign your name at the end of the letter. Include your mailing address (you can also include your phone number and email if you would like) and be sure to ask that he responds to let you know if he will be supporting LB304.

2. The second best option for influencing the Governor is to call his office at (402) 471-2244. Be sure that the person you speak with knows you are a Nebraskan (and from what city/town/rural area) and that you would like Governor Pillen to support LB304. You may also request a call back from the Governor or one of his staffers if you would like to tell a story, give further details about why LB304 is important in your community, etc. You may also request a meeting with the Governor to talk about LB304 if you would like.
3. While not as impactful as a handwritten letter, electronic mail is also helpful. Send electronic messages to Governor Jim Pillen at <https://ne.accessgov.com/gov/Forms/Page/contact-us/write-the-governor/1>. From there, you can type your message directly into the corresponding messaging box. You can also upload a document if you have your message saved in a file (i.e., a Word document or a pdf). You are encouraged to request a response from him letting you know if he will be supporting LB304.
4. Please help us keep track of what communications are being sent by [filling out this form](#).

Instructions for Communicating with the Legislature's Health and Human Services Committee about LB304

1. Handwritten letters (or letters that are typed/printed, signed, and sent in the mail) are the most impactful. If mailing letters to HHS Committee members, address the envelopes in the following manner:

The Honorable (Name of Senator)
State Capitol
PO Box 94604
Lincoln, NE 68509-4604

Committee members are:

Chairman Brian Hardin
Vice Chair John Fredrickson
Senator Beau Ballard
Senator Ben Hansen
Senator Glen Meyer
Senator Dan Quick
Senator Merv Riepe

In the actual letter itself, use "Chairman/Vice Chair/Senator (Name)" for the salutation. Remember to both print and sign your name at the end of the letter. Include your mailing address (you can also include your phone number and email if you would like) and be sure to ask that the Senator responds to let you know if he will be supporting LB304.

2. The second best option for influencing the HHS Committee is to call each of their offices. Be sure that the person you speak with knows you are a Nebraskan and that you would like the Senator to support and advance LB304. See below for telephone numbers.
3. While not quite as impactful as handwritten letters, emailing the HHS Committee members is also helpful.

Chairman Brian Hardin at (402) 471-2802 and bhardin@leg.ne.gov
Vice Chair John Fredrickson at (402) 471-2622 and jfredrickson@leg.ne.gov
Senator Beau Ballard at (402) 471-2673 and bballard@leg.ne.gov
Senator Ben Hansen at (402) 471-2728 and bhansen@leg.ne.gov
Senator Glen Meyer at (402) 471-2716 and gmeyer@leg.ne.gov
Senator Dan Quick at (402) 471-2617 and dquick@leg.ne.gov
Senator Merv Riepe at (402) 471-2623 and mriepe@leg.ne.gov

4. Please help us keep track of what communications are being sent by [filling out this form](#).

LB304 Sample Letter Template

Use these bullet points to help craft your own letter of support for LB304. These are just ideas. Choose which points most resonate with you and include your personal experiences.

Dear Governor Pillen (or Dear Chairman Hardin, etc.),

Paragraph 1: Thank you

- Thank you for your leadership of the State of Nebraska.
- Thank you for the time you invest in making Nebraska a great place to live.
- Thank you for your service to Nebraska.
- Add something personal:
 - I am proud to be a lifelong Nebraskan.
 - I have lived in Nebraska for xxx years.
 - I am raising my family here. My children are ages ...
 - I am not a native Nebraskan, but I am proud to be a Nebraskan by choice.
- One of my favorite things about Nebraska is ...

Paragraph 2: LB304

Talk about the bill and why it is important to you, your family, and your community. Feel free to use ideas from the bullets below, but add your own words to explain. Add details about what you see in your own life: as a parent, as a child care provider, as a rural Nebraska resident, etc. Your perspective is important and helps policymakers understand how child care assistance through LB304 does, in fact, make a meaningful difference in the lives of real Nebraskans.

- Parents can't work without child care. LB 304 provides working families of modest means with assistance for child care.
- When families are stable, our workforce and economy are strong. But too many families are faced with losing their child care assistance. We need to pass LB304 to prevent cuts to child care for working families.
- The last time child care assistance took a dramatic cut (2002), child care providers across the state saw young children taken out of their care and instead left home alone without safe supervision. LB304 ensures parents have a safe place for their children while they are at work.
- LB304 helps working families stay working. The cost of groceries, housing, and child care is squeezing Nebraska families. LB304 makes sure parents can stay employed without losing access to quality child care.
- LB304 helps working families who are already doing their part. Right now, a family of four earning about \$59,000 or less qualifies for child care help. Without LB304, that drops below \$42,000—cutting off thousands of parents who are working hard and paying taxes, but still can't afford the entire cost of child care.
- LB304 keeps Nebraska's economy moving. Quality child care allows parents to pursue careers, generate business revenue, and help grow the next generation of talented Nebraskans to keep our state competitive.

Paragraph 3: Directly ask for their support of LB304

- (For letters to the Governor) On behalf of young families all across Nebraska, please take a leadership role on LB304. Mention it in your State of the State address and encourage senators to pass it.
- (For letters to the Governor) Please support LB304. There are a lot of important issues debated during election years, but none is more vital to working parents, to employers, and to local Nebraska communities than child care assistance. Please respond back and let me know if you are supportive of LB304.
- (For letters to the HHS Committee members) I am writing to you not just as a senator with interest in doing what is best for your district, but in your leadership role on the Health and Human Services Committee. In this role, you have the opportunity to impact families, businesses, and communities across all of Nebraska. For the good of our entire state, **please advance LB304 from committee.**

Paragraph 4: Closing – Be sure to sign your letter and include your hometown

- Thank you again for your service to Nebraska.
- I know the upcoming legislative session will be short and I know the State's finances are tight, but those are not reasons to ignore this critical issue. Every family across Nebraska is feeling the pinch, too. Please prioritize helping working families stay working with child care assistance through LB304.